

► Rubens Paiva: Presente! 'I'm Still Here' challenges Brazil's resurgent far-right

STRUGGLE LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo

Struggle-La-Lucha.org

Vol. 8, No. 4 • Feb. 24, 2025

Suggested donation: \$1

Socialist Unity Party

Partido de Socialismo Unido

AI for the people?

How China's AI development challenges U.S. big tech

By Gary Wilson

Let's start with the U.S. tech war against China. Some call it a New Cold War. A problem with that term is there's no guarantee it will stay "cold." There is a major U.S. military buildup around China, with a U.S. Army drone warfare Green Beret unit now stationed in Taiwan, and aircraft carriers from the U.S., France and Japan conducting "war games" in the South China Sea.

Continued on page 12



The accompanying text is based on a talk given by Gary Wilson at the "Deep Seek and the Challenge to U.S. Technological Hegemony" webinar on Feb. 16, hosted by the Friends of Socialist China and the International Manifesto Group.

The full webinar is available on YouTube at youtube.com/watch?v=JNleNCUKJ2c



► Transgender activists challenge Trump

► Leonard Peltier: Free at last

► Federal workers' unions hold the line

► Nazis driven out in Ohio

► 'Trump's not welcome in NOLA'

► NYS prison guard's brutality

What Malcolm X means to me

We share this special section to commemorate the revolutionary leader Malcolm X who was assassinated 60 years ago on Feb. 21, 1965.



Transgender activists challenge Trump's executive order

By Andre Powell

On Feb. 13, nearly 100 members of the LGBTQ community and allies held a protest rally outside the U.S. Federal Courthouse in Baltimore, Maryland, in response to Trump's executive order stopping federal funding for trans youth health care. Following the rally they packed Courtroom 1A to capacity to hear the lawsuit filed to oppose this executive order.

U.S. District Court Judge Brendan Hurson presided over the lawsuit filed by PFLAG and parents of trans children in addition to a doctors' organization. The executive order would immediately cut off all federal funding to hospitals and medical institutions, including for research purposes. The cut-off would even apply to funding procedures not related to trans care. The order prohibits Medicaid and Tricare for military families from paying for trans care.

Hospitals in Massachusetts, Maryland, Colorado, Virginia, and Washington have already begun canceling appointments and stopping treatments with hormones and puberty blockers according to ACLU.org. The order stops treatment for any patient under age 19.

During the hearings, the attorneys for the plaintiff opined that "these policies are holding a gun to the head of the hospitals that perform trans health care. It is the threat of stopping funding to the



Feb. 20, Baltimore – supporters of trans community line up for security check before going into U.S. Federal Courthouse. They are organizing in response to Trump's executive order stopping federal funding for trans youth health care.

SLL photo

hospitals that makes them stop providing care."

The attorneys then argued that the order was unconstitutional due to the separation of powers with the president making funding decisions that should be made by Congress. They then explained that the order would ensure medical institutions receiving any grants would have them stopped if any trans health care is provided. This order, they contin-

ued, is in conflict with Equal Protection statutes. The government's attorney replied to this by saying that the plaintiff's attorneys' arguments were too abstract.

During the course of the hearings, Judge Hurson often challenged both sides. Hurson remarked during discussions that these orders, as written, were intended to stop federal funding of trans care immediately. He stated to the court that stopping care in the middle of treatment does not show any concern for the patients. It seems to put the children at extreme risk for suicide, drug and alcohol addictions, depression, and other forms of mental illness.

After both sides completed their arguments the judge rendered his decision. He issued a 14-day temporary restraining order thereby allowing the funding to continue. After that time the order is able to be extended.

The next day, a second hearing was held 3,000 miles away in Washington state, which again challenged Trump's executive order. The Democratic attorneys general of Washington State, Oregon, and Minnesota filed a lawsuit last week. Three doctors also joined the suit.

This lawsuit addresses more specifically that the executive order violates equal rights protections, the separation of powers, and states' powers to regulate what is not specifically delegated to the federal government. Following this

Continued on page 3

Struggle-La Lucha

Subscribe
and/or
donate



www.struggle-la-lucha.org
facebook.com/strugglelalucha
twitter.com/StruggleLaLucha
info@struggle-la-lucha.com

CONTACT STRUGGLE-LA LUCHA

ATLANTA
 Atlanta@struggle-la-lucha.org
BALTIMORE
 Baltimore@struggle-la-lucha.org
BOONVILLE, INDIANA
 Boonville@struggle-la-lucha.org
BOSTON
 Boston@struggle-la-lucha.org
DENVER
 Denver@struggle-la-lucha.org
DETROIT
 Detroit@struggle-la-lucha.org

LOS ANGELES
 LA@struggle-la-lucha.org
NEW ORLEANS
 NOLA@struggle-la-lucha.org
NEW YORK CITY
 NYC@struggle-la-lucha.org
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
 Orlando@struggle-la-lucha.org
SAN DIEGO
 SanDiego@struggle-la-lucha.org
WASHINGTON, D.C.
 DC@struggle-la-lucha.org

Leonard Peltier released from 49 Years of wrongful incarceration

February 19, 2025 NDN Collective

Feb., 18, Sumterville, FL – This morning, Leonard Peltier was released from over 49 years of wrongful incarceration. Mr. Peltier is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and will reside on his tribal homelands in North Dakota.

Upon Peltier's request, NDN Collective is bringing him home to the Turtle Mountain community. NDN Collective and partners built upon five decades of organizing and led the advocacy that secured Peltier's release. Tomorrow, the organization is hosting a celebratory event and community feed to welcome Peltier back to his homelands.

"Today I am finally free! They may have imprisoned me but they never took my spirit!" said Leonard Peltier. "Thank you to all my supporters throughout the world who fought for my freedom. I am finally going home. I look forward to seeing my friends, my family, and my community. It's a good day today."

"Leonard Peltier is free! He never gave up fighting for his freedom so we never gave up fighting for him. Today our el-



Photos by Angel White Eyes for NDN Collective

ier's liberation is invaluable in and of itself – yet just as his wrongful incarceration represented the oppression of Indigenous Peoples everywhere, his release today is a symbol of our collective power and inherent freedom."

"This moment would not be happening without Secretary Deb Haaland and President Biden responding to the calls for Peltier's release that have echoed through generations of grassroots organizing," said **Holly Cook Macarro, Government Affairs for NDN Collective**. "Today is a testament to the many voices who fought tirelessly for Peltier's freedom and justice."

NDN Collective is an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to building Indigenous power. Through organizing, activism, philanthropy, grantmaking, capacity-building, and narrative change, we are creating sustainable solutions on Indigenous terms.

der Leonard Peltier walks into the open arms of his people," said Nick Tilsen, NDN Collective Founder and CEO. "Pelt-

ty-building, and narrative change, we are creating sustainable solutions on Indigenous terms.

Transgender activists challenge Trump

Continued from 2

hearing, U.S. District Court Judge Lauren King issued a second temporary restraining order.

The LGBTQ community members along with their allies have held multiple protests in response to Trump's executive order. A movement is building around the country to counter these ongoing attacks as well as to fight back against the many outrageous policies of his administration that are detrimental to the working class. Ultimately, a movement that builds socialism will bring about the end of Trump, Musk, and all of the fascist policies that are part of this capitalist system. #



Federal workers' unions hold the line against Trump

By Lev Koufax

Attack on federal workers is an attack on all workers

The Trump-Musk axis has never been shy about the fact they wanted to bust up federal organized labor.

The Trump campaign made a lot of promises about the sort of hell they would unleash on federal workers and their unions. Since the inauguration, the Trump administration has followed through on that promise to the private sector and his fascist base.

Since he took office, Trump has issued executive orders aimed at slashing federal jobs and weakening federal labor unions. These orders have included a return-to-work order, a hiring freeze, a deferred resignation program, and the restoration of policies that make it far easier for federal agencies to terminate career workers.

Targeting organized labor

If the previous Trump administration's labor policy is any indication, this is just the beginning. All unions in the federal sector are braced for executive orders and regulations that will remove local unions from their offices on government property, ban the deduction of union dues from paychecks, and severely limit the amount of duty time given to union officials to represent their fellow workers.

With these attacks, Trump, and the ruling class more broadly, hope to break any organization that would see federal money spent on its workers or social programs rather than war or kick-backs for billionaires.

Not only will the federal government save money to invest in the war machine, the cumulative effect of these policies is to function as a de-facto massive layoff. With this level of layoff, the labor market will be flooded with experienced workers in various professions. It's not as if the U.S. jobs market is booming currently. For months,



Feb. 11, Capitol Hill – AFGE federal workers' union leads rally against Trump-Musk attacks on all workers' rights.

SLL photos

more and more people have had trouble finding a job. Capitalist economists have described it as a “low fire low hire” job market. This translates: “We know nobody can find a job but we don't want to admit that we are also laying people off.”

Since December, Meta, Microsoft, Workday, Amazon, Intel, JP Morgan, and Chevron have announced layoffs. Now, the federal government, via Elon Musk's DOGE, will join the fray through literal layoffs, disciplinary removals, and employee buyouts called “deferred resignations.”

Federal unions fight back

With a flooded labor market and a federal policy offensive against public and private sector unions, the Trump administration escalates its variety of fascism and looks to completely break what is left of organized labor in the federal sector and beyond. All there is left for the working class to do is fight back.

To that end, federal sector unions have attempted to challenge this wave of Trump policies in the courts and to some extent, in the street. The American Federation of Government Employees, the largest federal union, has already joined or initiated lawsuits against Trump and DOGE for these policies. Further, AFGE has issued guidance that its members should refuse any deferred resignation offer. The slogan on this

issue has become “hold the line.” AFGE represents over 600,000 workers across the country, with 300,000 members in the federal sector alone.

On Feb. 11, AFGE held a rally on Capitol Hill to confront Trump and Musk's attacks on federal workers. Representatives from American Postal Workers, AFSCME, Unite Here, the Office of Professional Employees International Union, and the United Steelworkers all joined AFGE in this demonstration of several hundred unionized workers.

The message was clear: All workers must stand up to these attacks from Trump and Musk. This means organizing and defending their contracts to the letter. While the leadership of AFGE is heavily entrenched in the Democratic Party, this should not stop the progressive movement from coming to the defense of it as a workers' organization.

Trump wouldn't be attacking AFGE and the other federal sector unions if they didn't curb the efforts of the ruling class to some extent. In this period of rising fascism, it is important to stand by unions as they face this assault. An organized workforce is never a bad thing.

AFGE staff union fights for their rights

With that said, support for AFGE's mission cannot stop the workers who are employed at AFGE as staff from asserting their own rights as a union and as workers. In fact, the reason union staff are asserting their contractual rights and challenging AFGE upper management's hypocrisy is exactly so they can better assist the AFGE members in their fight against Trump and Musk.

Continued on page 5



Federal labor staffer and SLL writer Lev Koufax participates in AFGE rally at Capitol building.

Latinx youth lead anti-Trump protests in Los Angeles

Photos: SLL

By Lev Koufax

Organizers from the Harriet Tubman Solidarity Center gathered on the steps of Los Angeles City Hall on the morning of Feb. 7 to send a message that the people will not tolerate landlord price gouging in the wake of the recent wildfires. That was how the day began, but not how it ended.

Roughly five minutes into the press conference, a large, organized group of high school students approached City Hall carrying homemade signs and flags from various Latin American countries. The demonstration was entirely composed of local Latinx teenagers who attend a high school about a mile from City Hall.

Once the march arrived, the Harriet Tubman Center emcee, John Parker, took the initiative to combine the two events. He invited anyone interested to speak using the center's amplified sound system. Many of the young people accepted the offer.

Most of those who spoke identified themselves not only as Latina, Latino or Latinx, but also proudly announced themselves as queer, gay or trans. So why had these students taken to the streets?

This demonstration followed a week of similar protests by Latinx youth, all denouncing Donald Trump's mass deportation policy. The speakers at the Friday



Los Angeles City Hall, Feb. 7 – Activists with the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice rallied against landlord price gouging after the fires and were joined by Latinx and other high school students who have been leading protests against mass deportation.

demonstration made it clear that they, too, took to the streets to protest what they called Trump's fascist deportations directed at the Latinx community.

These are quite literally the children of people being deported. The week leading up to Friday, Feb. 9, saw protests of thousands that blocked highways, walked out of schools, and directly confronted police forces. All of these actions were organized and carried out by Latinx youth.

At the peak of the demonstration, Har-

riet Tubman Center organizer John Parker led the students in anti-Trump and anti-Elon Musk chants. Another political point raised at the demonstration, which had echoed throughout the week, was: No one can be illegal on stolen land.

What is now called the U.S. state of California is, in fact, stolen Mexican land. In 1846, the U.S. military invaded Mexico under the orders of President James K. Polk. The invasion's goal was no secret. The U.S. invaded Mexican land in Texas and California to expand its markets fueled by slave labor and to strengthen the position of slave states as opposed to free states.

Further, anti-immigrant deportation policies did not begin under Donald Trump. The U.S. has a long history of xenophobic laws and violent anti-immigrant raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and its predecessors. In fact, President Joe Biden broke Trump's deportation record just last year.

For the U.S. government, whether led by a Democrat or a Republican, to deport anyone from land stolen from their ancestors for the purpose of strengthening chattel slavery is as evil as it is ludicrous.

All progressives must join the Latinx community in resisting Trump's mass deportation policy. This expansion and escalation of Manifest Destiny cannot be tolerated, whether it is aimed at Indigenous, Palestinian or Latin American communities. #

Federal workers' unions hold the line

Continued on page 5

Since the November election, AFGE's upper management has increased its attack on its own workforce, which is represented by OPEIU Local 2. AFGE management has forced its employees back into the office 80% of the time after bargaining for 50% of the time. Further, the AFGE national president has continued to threaten layoffs and buyouts against its own staff. In general, AFGE's upper management and human resources have worked to scuttle the attempts of their staff union to represent the workers.

Due to these attacks, OPEIU Local 2 has mobilized to challenge these attacks on their contract. The day before AFGE's rally, AFGE's staff held a picket line where they demanded that AFGE "fight Trump not its staff" and to "respect the contract."

Well over 100 people showed up to the informational picket, including AFGE staff and members.

While these AFGE attacks on their staff are hypocritical and anti-worker in themselves, they should not stop workers and progressives from supporting AFGE overall, particularly the rank and file, in their fight against DOGE fascism. The struggle of the OPEIU-represented workers aims not to hurt AFGE but to improve representation and put AFGE in a better position to fight Trump.

The moral of these stories should not be to worship or condemn outright any particular workers' organization. The lesson to be taken from these two struggles is to support worker organizations at all levels in their fights for not just better conditions, but existence. #



Ron Gochez of Unión del Barrio speaks at the march.



John Parker with the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice was interviewed about the coalition's work.

LA Community Self-Defense Coalition is fighting ICE

By Gregory E. Williams

More than 60 organizations in Los Angeles have come together to establish the Community Self-Defense Coalition to fight ICE. The Coalition held a march on Feb. 17 and, in the days following, conducted community patrols in South Central LA.

On Feb. 19, Unión del Barrio – an organization in the coalition – posted to Facebook:

“We continue to patrol our streets in search of ICE so that we can alert our people so they don’t get kidnapped and ripped apart from their families ... We need other communities to also organize to do this work in defense of our people.”

On the same day, the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice – another coalition organization – posted to Facebook:

“Felt great to be part of the Community Self-Defense Coalition’s patrol this morning! We rode around looking for ICE agents’ vehicles so we could warn people in the neighborhood ahead of time.” #

Community drives out Nazis in Ohio

By Gregory E. Williams

On Feb. 7, a hundred residents of Lincoln Heights, Ohio, drove out a dozen armed neo-Nazis waving swastika flags. This community is about 70 miles from Springfield, where Silicon Valley darling JD Vance and Elon Musk whipped up hysteria with lies about Haitian immigrants. Nazi groups also marched in Springfield before Vance’s big lie.

Idavox, a local reporter on It’s Going Down, said:

“A neo-Nazi group, ‘Hate Club,’ showed up on Friday (2/7/25) armed with long guns and flying swastika flags on an I-75 overpass in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood, just north of Cincinnati. They showed up in the wrong damn neighborhood.

“A historically Black community, Lincoln Heights is home to generations of residents committed to a strong sense of community and culture, impactful civic engagement, and self-organization – especially as the first self-governing Black community north of the Mason-Dixon line. So when armed neo-Nazis showed



Feb. 7, Lincoln Heights, Ohio – residents of historically Black community converge to drive out armed neo-Nazi group waving swastika flags on I-75 overpass.

up here there wasn’t even a question they were going to get run out. Within minutes of arriving on the I-75 overpass, neo-Nazi group ‘hate club’ got sent packing as community members, angry that Nazis had come armed to terrorize them in their own neighborhood, showed up to tell the fact they weren’t having any of it.”

The community members were able to seize one of the Nazi flags and burn it.

Police protecting neo-Nazis

WKRC Cincinnati reports that at a town hall on Feb. 10, residents confronted representatives of the Hamilton

County Sheriff’s Office – the only police agency to attend, even though officers from Lockland and Evandale were involved in the incident. Residents pointed out that footage from the event shows the police protecting the Nazis and helping them escape.

A resident at the town hall said: “Again, this is super unfortunate because when it comes to African Americans, you guys arrest first and ask questions later.

And I just feel like you guys did not do that in that moment.”

In the days following the incident, residents formed armed patrols to ensure the community’s safety. This is amid ongoing threats. WPCO 9 News reports that four days after the rally on Feb. 11, a flyer was circulated “that used a racial slur and declared a ‘race war.’”

These developments show that organized people can push back the shock troops emboldened by the fascist MAGA movement. We cannot rely on the police or courts to do it.

Threats from fascist groups are only going to get worse. On Feb. 14, JD Vance

Continued on page 14

We share this pamphlet to commemorate the revolutionary leader Malcolm X who was assassinated 60 years ago on Feb. 21, 1965.

What Malcolm X means to me



February 2025



Malcolm X had global view of struggle

Feb. 21, 2025, marks the 60th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X (El-Hajj Malik El Shabazz). Malcolm was killed just two months before his 40th birthday while speaking at an Organization of African American Unity indoor rally at the Audubon Ballroom in Manhattan. His pregnant wife and four children witnessed his murder.

By Gloria Verdieu and John Parker

Mosque #7, where Malcolm had once been minister, was fire-bombed after Malcolm's murder. Malcolm's supporters had a difficult time finding a venue for his memorial service due to the threat of violence. The Faith Temple Church of God in Christ agreed to conduct the funeral service. Between 20,000 to 30,000 people waited in line to pay their respects to Malcolm X as his body lay in state at the Unity Funeral Home in Harlem.

Ossie Davis' eulogy

Betty Shabazz chose Ossie Davis to give the eulogy. Despite the damage that it may cause his mainstream acting career, Davis agreed. His eulogy delivered on Saturday morning, Feb. 27, 1965, would be among the most memorable words he ever wrote.

A quote from Davis' eulogy states "There are those who will consider it their duty, as friends of the Negro people to tell us to revile him, to flee, even from the presence of his memory, to save ourselves by writing him out of the history."

Honoring Malcolm X by commemorating his death serves as a reminder of his lasting impact on social justice, racial equality, and human rights movements.

FBI and COINTELPRO

The assassination had signs of involvement by the FBI, which targeted for assassination members of the Black Panther Party, like Fred Hampton in Chicago.



Malcolm X and Fidel Castro met in 1960 at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem.

We are seeing today another genocidal threat from the Department of Justice targeting Black and Brown and Palestinian people in the U.S., with Trump increasing the already heinous violations of human rights by the Democratic Party.

However, young Latinx people are now in the streets almost daily, not backing away from Trump's threat of massive raids.

LA Times reported on Feb. 10 about a leaked memo by the State Department of a "large scale" immigration raid that is expected to happen in Los Angeles by the end of February.

ICE raids and resistance

ICE agents began targeting major sanctuary cities immediately after Trump's inauguration – the same day, including LA, Chicago, and Atlanta. The following day, Trump lifted well-established guidelines that restricted ICE from operating at "sensitive locations" such as schools, churches or hospitals.

Sixty organizations in LA united in response: The press conference held in LA on Feb. 12 – launching now one of the largest Immigrant and Migrant solidarity organizations – had the greatest

Continued on page 8

What Malcolm X



Colby Byrd

MALCOLM X means an unshakable Brotherhood made in Blood. He means Uncompromising Resistance. He means Revolution ... violent and untameable. Finally, Malcolm X means Liberation by any means Necessary.

All these principles build on each other. As one discovers their fellow Blood Brothers, they begin to help them and fight for them. As the fighting continues, it reaches a point of no return where there is no longer just a fight to stay afloat, to stay alive, but now an uncontrollable brawl. A complete and total struggle to rid your Blood Brothers of whatever is afflicting them. And this struggle is fought until total victory.

Malcolm X reminds us that our fight is one for human rights, not civil rights. We are fighting for our equality as human beings, not as citizens of the U.S. We are fighting to end the exploitation of us all worldwide. We are fighting to destroy this hypocritical "democracy" for the rich and kill the bloodsucker known as Capitalism.

He respected the fight. He analyzed what the revolution would look like and never once shied away from explaining

how a mutually bloody fight was coming. He openly endorsed armed resistance to occupation and oppression. Whether it be Police in Harlem or Paratroopers in Vietnam, he understood that occupation is a tool of war used by the ruling class on all those below.

His words from 1964 and '65 hold the same weight and relay the same relevant warnings here in 2025. The casbahs of Algiers back then are the refugee camps of Palestine today. The tactics used by French Paratroopers and Harlem police are now the tactics of the Zionist state of Israel and any city police department. The game played on Black people of this nation back in 1964 continues to be played on us now. Forced to vote to "save" the nation, while no matter the outcome, getting left behind. His warnings against following the leadership that, although may be preaching for change and progress, they are ultimately tools of compromise that are backed by and rooted within the systems of oppression. His times' Mau-Mau are our Al-Qassam.

In 2025, who are my blood brothers? Who are the people that have struggled

Continued on page 11

Malcolm X had global view of

Continued from page 7

participation of leading youth who were making their own way, while respecting history's lessons and older activists and leaders who led the historic 2006 demonstrations on May 1. Indeed, the youth heeded Malcolm's words.

In Malcolm's 1964 speech, "Ballot or the Bullet" he explained the difference between civil rights and human rights. Civil rights mean you're asking Uncle Sam to treat you right. Human rights are something you were born with. Human rights are your God-given rights. Human rights are the rights that are recognized by all nations of this earth. Any time anyone violates their human rights, you can take them to the World Court. Malcolm spoke of the need to expand the civil rights struggle to a higher level – to the level of human rights.

Malcolm would have today seen the immigrant struggle as part of the broader struggle for human rights.

International solidarity

Malcolm saw that solidarity with the international victims of U.S. and Western imperialism empowers those struggling here, especially in terms of Black and Brown unity and solidarity with the Global South.

On Sept. 19, 1960, 35-year-old Nation of Islam member Malcolm and 34-year-old Cuban Head of State Fidel Castro had a historic meeting of the minds on the ninth floor of the Black-owned Hotel Theresa in Harlem.

Malcolm once said that you can't understand what is going on in Mississippi if you don't know what is going on in the Congo.

Malcolm X condemned the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the first Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in January of 1961. He believed the U.S. government arranged Lumumba's murder to protect investments and profits in the Congo.

He understood the importance of international solidarity, especially with Africa and Latin America and Asia. And after his trip in April 1964 to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, performing the Hajj – he declared that unity of the oppressed nationalities was essential. After seeing the people he shared that trip to Mecca with, he began to think that "race" and ethnicity were not the determinants of friends, allies or comrades in the struggle against oppression and imperialism.

Continued on page 9

JoyB

MALCOLM X to me represents the “good” in adversity. The “loud” in alarm. Mr. X ... The scholar – the Minister & man of great tragedy. To me X was Unafraid – always ready to battle – not necessarily with a gun but always with the mind.

Born in Nebraska in 1925 – my dedication to this giant will never die. Fiery, eloquent and spokesman for an entire nation of MEN & women too.

X was leader – Black Nationalist too – if alive he would tell you all yes it’s true. X was a force – who challenged Dr. King. Intellectual – Influencer & Intuitive too.

Malcolm X was my hero – then and still is now. With Flavor Orange in the White House – X would say *how?* Mentored by Elijah & sanctioned to Prison – Likely X would say things happening now would require immediate revision.

Malcolm X changed the racial climate back in the day. For me – Malcolm’s legacy will always remain constant and true to the game. I love his stance on Education – which he always maintained. Complex – who could figure Malcolm out? The Minister – The Man all clothed in power. To me & many more X is such a tower.



Let’s talk more about Malcolm X – we could talk all day. Imagine being void of education – X would have an issue with that. Malcolm! Malcolm! I wish you could speak! That’s nothing but FACT.

X was gallant – to me – tall as a Tree. Taking great pride in his culture – all he wanted was for Black people to live free. Malcolm the Warrior – Hustler and King ... alleged Con Man & Little with a DREAM! Malcolm X counted & courted defeat. Always on the move – forever in the streets.

He spoke of heartbreak in the fondest of terms. His was a mixture of both

LIFE’s twists and turns. The truth about “X” is that he was a King ... Like Martin Luther, he too had a dream. Malcolm X represents the word Bravery to me – how else did he live in a Foster Home & never tried to flee? I’d love to see Malcolm X alive and well – oh what stories he would sit and tell. Malcolm X would likely say we need to prepare for tomorrow and that would be true – he would insist that we snatch the future “he’d say – it’s there waiting on you.”

What does Malcolm X mean to me – X means hope and pride. An entire people representing an individual man – to me X typifies advancement & truth for all races. Again if he were alive – he’d take us through the paces. X wasn’t afraid to speak truth to power – I love that – he wasn’t one to cower.

Troubled & Tried ... Malcolm X stayed for the ride. What’s the name of the movie ... “Get on Bus” ... I wish he could have taken all of us.

With X – civil rights became human rights. There are so many things about Malcolm – again we could talk all day. We could talk about his many achievements & by “any means necessary” mantra.

Every “L” was a small seed of its own (in the words of the Great Malcolm X) losses & lessons to be used as Courses in Improvement. Malcolm great in stature – well versed in the ways of Islam. I pay both honor and homage to this

man because he was bold enough to admit that Black people needed to come to together against the “Common Enemy.”

Malcolm X was accused of dealing in hate. I loudly proclaim this is a falsehood. This man spoke about oppression & exploitation. He forced us to take an intricate look at our own hatred – self-hatred – hatred of our own kind.

This question by Malcolm took me all the way in – at what we would eventually refer to as “rallies” – X put forth “Noooooooo – before you come asking Mr. Mohammed does he teach hate – you should ask yourself who taught you to hate being what GOD gave you.”

Finally, I deem Malcolm X an icon – that was then and this is now!

JoyB is a community organizer with the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly and Struggle for Socialism. She helped found the Prisoners Solidarity Committee.



struggle

From Malcolm’s letter on his trip to Mecca:

“There were tens of thousands of pilgrims, from all over the world. They were of all colors, from blue-eyed blonds to black skin Africans. But we were all participating in the same rituals, displaying a spirit of unity and brotherhood that my experiences in America had led me to believe never could exist between the white and non-white. America needs to understand Islam, because this is the one religion that erases from its society the race problem. ...”

– ‘The Autobiography of Malcolm X’

In September of 1964, he visited a Palestinian refugee camp in Gaza and witnessed firsthand the displacement and suffering caused by the 1948 Nakba. This visit was significant because it

reflected Malcolm X’s growing international perspective and his commitment to linking the fight against racial oppression in the U.S. with anti-colonial and liberation movements worldwide. He spoke out against Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, calling it unjust and unsustainable. He condemned the annexation of Jerusalem and other Palestinian lands, emphasizing the importance of human rights for all, including Palestinians.

Malcolm X was no friend of capitalism and his hatred of the system grew into an understanding that, as long as it existed, oppression and division would thrive.

“You can’t have capitalism without racism. And if you find a person without racism, usually they’re socialists or their political philosophy is socialism.” #

Malcolm X and Ghassan Kanafani

Revolutionary thinkers across worlds

By Colby Byrd

Malcolm X and Ghassan Kanafani: Two revolutionary thinkers and writers who preached the same message, worlds away. Both men understood the complexity of the style of capitalism that had been unleashed on Black and Brown communities specifically.

They both understood how it was a war of extermination guided by fanatical religious white supremacy in the names of Zionism and Manifest Destiny/American Exceptionalism. Both imperialistic projects aim for the enslavement and even erasure of, as Malcolm X would say, “All of Dark Mankind.” Internationally, the victims suffer the same fates — through loss of homes, land, jobs, lives, history, and culture.

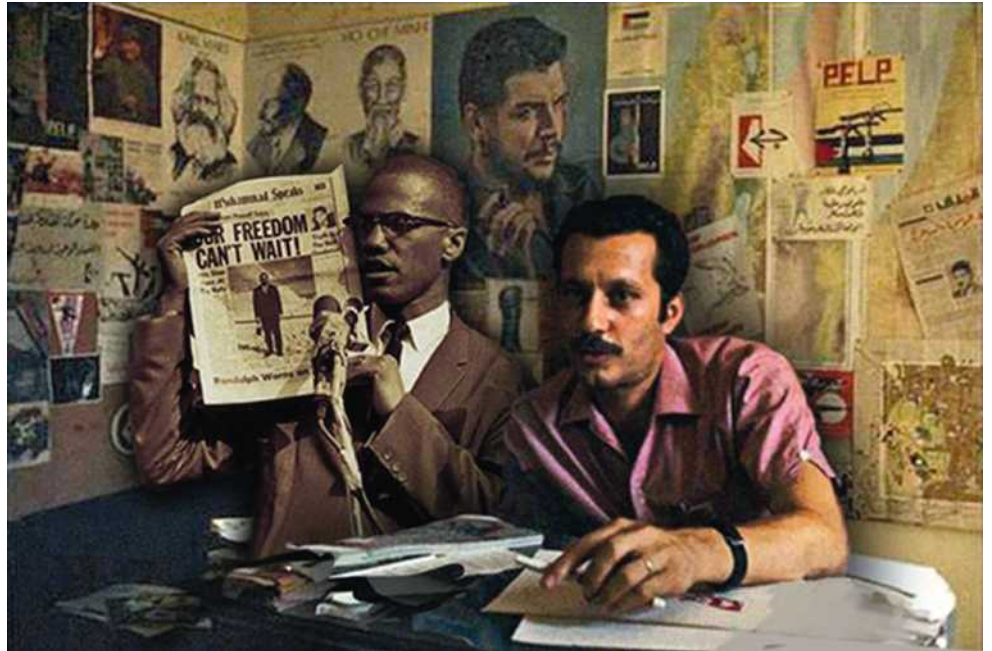
Colonial oppression in Palestine

In his analysis of the 1936-39 Revolution in Palestine (against the British colonial government and Zionist land theft), Ghassan Kanafani writes that “Every plot of land the Jews buy becomes alien to the Arabs as if it were severed from the body of Palestine and transferred to another country.” This feeling of tremendous loss was aided by the British Mandate government’s passing of laws specifically to aid Zionist settlement of the land owned by the native Palestinian population.

The Mandate allowed the expansion of Zionist militias and gangs along with the creation of Jewish-only work projects to continue to divide the population and keep money in the pockets of those friendly with white supremacy.

Malcolm X on systemic oppression in the U.S.

Likewise, Malcolm X explains this great trick that is being played on Black Americans by the U.S. government, where even after the Civil War, Emancipation, and the Civil Rights movement, Black Americans are still being killed and incarcerated en masse, denied jobs and education and attacked by white racist mobs chasing them off their land. Malcolm X sees that in America, the Black man has always been a beggar — a beggar politically, economically, social-



In this graphic, a historic photo of Malcolm was X added to the poster of revolutionaries behind Ghassan Kanafani, shown working at his desk.

ly, and in education due to colonialism.

For the Black population in America, we have felt the similar severing of the land here. We were banned from National Parks and hunted in Sundown towns. 1921 saw the Black-dominated town of Tulsa, Oklahoma, bombed off the map and its inhabitants butchered for 48 hours. In its place now sits a deeply racist white-dominated city firmly in the hands of white supremacists.

The shift toward revolution

Ghassan Kanafani emphasizes this cultural shift within his people that took place leading up to the 1936 Revolution. Ghassan Khanafani says that, “abject poverty, crushing oppression, and centuries of class and national repression combined to establish the ‘perfect system’ for defeatism, fatalism, and political quietism that was reflected in the most widespread popular proverbs and sayings.”

In this shift, old terms and slang that referenced helplessness and defeat were replaced with sayings of justice and to stand up and do something about the situation they saw themselves in. Calls to arms became commonplace, and the

desire to lash out and physically strike your enemy was beginning to be acted on. Malcolm X mentions how, in 1965, people were starting to see that “the Black man has ceased to turn the other cheek, that he has ceased to be nonviolent, that he has ceased to feel that he must be confined to all these restraints that are put upon him by white society in struggling for what white society says he was supposed to have had a hundred years ago.”

A shared struggle against empire

In Palestine, Kanafani writes how “the rage pouring out simultaneously against the trinity of enemies — Zionist colonization, the British Mandate, and Arab reactionary forces locally and regionally — grew in tandem with the deepening of the crisis.” The crisis for the Palestinians was the same for Black Americans then as it is now. Malcolm X puts it like this:

“It’s a problem anytime the United States can come up with so many alibis not to get involved in Mississippi and to get involved in the Congo and involved

Continued on page 11

Apryle Everly

MALCOLM X to me, embodies one of the many great examples of what it means to be a communist. Malcolm would not have always considered himself a communist earlier on in his life. His own considerations, as many know, were far more religious in nature, with Black power at its center. After being forced out of the Nation of Islam for pointing out precisely how the struggles of all Black people across the world are interconnected and for voicing his principled opposition to American imperialism, he solidified his internationalist turning point.

In some twisted sense of irony, Henry Kissinger said it best, “Disciplined communists see everything in relation to the class struggle.” Malcolm’s view on the crisis facing Black Americans was initially that Black people needed separate services, communities, education, health care, etc. to uplift poor Black communities. As Malcolm saw that not all the needs of Black people were being met through the measures taken by the Nation of Islam, he began the journey of joining class struggle politics with Black Power.

Malcolm understood that class and race intersect in such a way that the

material change needed to bring millions of Black Americans out of poverty would never come to fruition simply by banding together to create exclusively Black services. Rather, an overhaul of the current power structure would have to occur. That means overthrowing the ruling class – the capitalists, those who own the means of production. This was true in Malcolm’s time, and it is still true in our own.

As we all understand, the ruling class knows no specific skin color or nationality. Malcolm put it best when he said:

“It doesn’t mean that we’re anti-white, but it does mean we’re anti-exploitation, we’re anti-degradation, we’re anti-oppression.”

Being against these very actions goes to the heart of the problem because if we own nothing, then the very goal of extinguishing poverty becomes infinitely harder to accomplish. From my perspective, communities organizing together and pooling resources is more of the beginning step in the larger revolution, not the ultimate goal. Joining this concept with the reality that many African nations were simultaneously undergoing their own independence movements, he understood that tactics at home had to change. It is at the crux of this understanding that explains what a communist aims to do: provide material changes for their community.



Lastly, I want to add that Malcolm showed great wisdom. For the movement today, I want us all to embrace the ability to reflect on current methods that we utilize to organize and continue to learn from others who are in the movement with us. Malcolm was in community with many revolutionaries around the world, many of whom gave him ideas for some of the speeches and actions he was involved in. I wish for the communist movement in the U.S. to continue to change tactics when the old ones no longer serve their intended purpose. I think Malcolm’s life shows us that tactile change is one of the most disciplined decisions we, as revolutionaries, can make. #

Malcolm X and Kanafani

Continued from page 10

in Asia ... the government is incapable of taking the kind of action necessary to solve the problem of Black people in this country. But at the same time she has her nose stuck into the problems of others everywhere else.”

Revolution the only path to liberation

This feeling describes both the American government and the British Empire’s unwillingness to slow the spread of white supremacy because they depended on it. Both men preached revolution to smash this feeling and to regain control of the land from the absentee landlords and reclaim the ability to exist and work freely as human beings on the land; they understood that it was death or total liberation by any means necessary. #

Colby Byrd: What Malcolm X means to me

Continued from page 8

as I have struggled? The list is almost never-ending, and that is the point. My Blood Brothers are the victims of racism, of homophobia, of misogyny. They are those fighting against Western Imperialism in defense of their homes and ways of life. My Blood Brothers are the victims of natural disasters here, left abandoned by their government, the many people snatched up by today’s slave catchers, Queer people fighting to not be erased from society, and women fighting for bodily autonomy. My blood brothers are

the Palestinian Resistance overseas and everyone of the Global South.

This family must learn how to support one another and how to fight off each other’s enemies. This family must always step together, where one blood brother goes we all go. When one is humiliated, we all are, and when one fights back, we all fight back.

Colby Byrd is a young union member and organizer with the People’s Power Assembly and Struggle for Socialism. Byrd organized support for Baltimore Sanitation workers.

AI for the people?

How China's AI development challenges U.S. big tech

Continued from page 1

Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in 2022, the first high-level U.S. official visit since the 1990s, was a provocation challenging China's sovereignty, that was backed with an unprecedented escalation in U.S. military activity in the region that came dangerously close to sparking a "hot war."

Anyway, whatever we call it, a New Cold War, an economic war, trade war or tech war — the U.S. has made China's science and technology a target. The U.S. has imposed strict limits on technology transfers, restricted access to semiconductors, sanctioned Chinese tech companies, blocked academic and research collaboration, and halted many scientific exchanges.

This tech war didn't just start. It really began in 2011 with Barack Obama's Pivot to Asia, a Cold War-style containment policy. The Pivot to Asia was primarily a military operation but also introduced export controls on advanced technologies.

As a military operation, it involved moving 60% of U.S. naval forces into the Asia-Pacific region, militarily surrounding China, and expanding military exercises like RIMPAC, the world's largest naval war games.

The tech war escalated significantly during Donald Trump's first presidency with trade restrictions and sanctions on Chinese firms, including Huawei (Wah-Way) and ZTE.

Then, with Joe Biden, even more severe restrictions were imposed. The U.S. also expanded military and technology alliances against China, like AUKUS — some call it the Asian NATO — and the U.S.-Japan-South Korea trilateral pact.

In the first few days of his second term, Trump implemented more aggressive export controls. The media is calling it a "tough on China" policy. Just two days ago, Trump's State Department removed the statement "We do not support Taiwan independence" from its U.S. relations with Taiwan web page. The Financial Times reported this week that Trump has threatened China with 60% tariffs and he may ban Nvidia semiconductors.

Why are semiconductors such a big deal?

Semiconductors are the foundation of modern technology — enabling the functionality of virtually every device and sys-

tem we use every day. For example, since the 1970s, every automobile has required semiconductors in order to operate.

Biden's Commerce Secretary said — and I quote — "the goal is to limit China's 'access to advanced semiconductors that could fuel breakthroughs in artificial intelligence and sophisticated computers.'"

Despite the restrictions, China has been making significant strides in semiconductor technology. Huawei is developing advanced high-powered chips, and the performance of its new Ascend 910C compares to Nvidia's H20, the GPU used to build DeepSeek R1. While DeepSeek was trained on the Nvidia H20, it used the Ascend 910C for inference, the process where a trained AI model draws conclusions.

This brings us to DeepSeek AI, a large language model or LLM built in China that equals the best in the U.S.

It was developed using less data and computing power and at a fraction of the cost of U.S. models.

With its release it profoundly became clear that the U.S. is not winning its tech war against China. Instead of falling behind, China showed its strength.

It's not just DeepSeek — China has built entire high-tech industries that now dominate globally:

- **Huawei** is the world's leading 5G telecommunications company.
- **BYD** is the world's top electric vehicle maker.
- **CATL** leads in advanced battery technology.
- **Tongwei** is tops in solar power.
- **DJI** is the world's largest commercial drone maker.

U.S. restrictions haven't stopped China.

When the Pivot to Asia began in 2011, the U.S. led in 60 of 64 key technologies globally.

By 2022, China had surpassed the U.S. in 52 of those technologies.

For years, AI was dominated by U.S. companies like Google and Microsoft's OpenAI, but today, China is leading in AI development and applications, not just with DeepSeek. Why?

Unlike the U.S., which focuses on AI for corporate profits, China sees AI as a driver of economic transformation — a way to modernize its economy.

Lenin famously said that communism is Soviet power plus electrification. Today, he might say, high tech.

In 2017, China released its "Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan." That plan is based on building open-source platforms to coordinate hardware, software and cloud-based systems.

This approach is similar to how technologies like the Internet's World Wide Web or Linux (the operating system for servers, cloud computing, mobile devices, and supercomputers) became dominant: They were built on open source standards that allowed for worldwide collaboration and innovation.

Accessible open-source AI can overtake the for-profit proprietary tech monopolies.

One of DeepSeek AI's most groundbreaking features is its ability to run on low-cost hardware, including laptops, even smartphones — making AI more accessible than ever before. This decentralized approach contrasts with how AI is used in the U.S., where companies like Amazon and Walmart deploy closed AI systems for worker monitoring, automation and robotics while using it to cut wages and suppress union organizing.

The potential benefits of treating AI as a public utility are immense. Rather than displacing workers or driving inequality, open-access AI can be used for equitable planning of production and distribution.

China is already leveraging AI for public services.

China has embraced smart cities, using AI to optimize urban management, traffic control, waste management, and energy efficiency. There are over 500 smart city pilot projects in China right now. AI is also being used in health care, education, and disaster response:

- **Health care:** AI is being used to predict disease outbreaks, optimize hospital resource allocation, and provide personalized health care.
- **Education:** AI is being used to enhance personalized learning and helps bridge urban-rural education gap.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** AI assists in flood prediction, earthquake monitoring, and emergency response coordination.

Continued on page 13

NYC rallies condemn Trump's ethnic cleansing plan for Gaza

Struggle-La Lucha New York bureau

Feb 15 NYC Palestine March

Trump's proposal to kick out 2 million Palestinians from Gaza was met with stiff resistance in two recent New York City demonstrations. Both actions were called by the Shut It Down 4 Palestine Coalition.

On Feb.12, Palestinian supporters gathered in front of the great reference library on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue. Speeches and chants attacked the genocidal tag team of Trump and Netanyahu, as well as Biden.

People marched through Times Square and then went to the New York Times headquarters. Speakers denounced the capitalist media for covering up the war crimes committed against the Palestinian people.

On Feb. 15, a rally was held in Manhattan's Dag Hammarskjold Park near the United Nations. Next to the park is the UN mission of the "Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan." Its dictatorial King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein — like his predecessors — is a long-time lap dog for U.S. and British imperialism.

Speakers demanded that the Jordanian and Egyptian regimes end collaboration with the U.S. and Zionist regime and reject Trump's ethnic cleansing plan.

Hundreds of people then marched through midtown Manhattan to Pershing Square. A short rally was held there, in front of Grand Central Terminal on 42nd Street.

The world is with Palestine! #

AI for the People

Continued from page 12

Despite U.S. restrictions, China continues to advance in AI, semiconductors, and other high-tech industries. China is shaping the future of global technology, and AI could play a key role in the economic planning of production and services to meet people's needs.

Gary Wilson is a long-time socialist agitator currently working as co-editor of Struggle-La Lucha. A retired computer network engineer, Gary is the author of a couple of guides to the Linux operating system and, more recently, "War & Lenin in the 21st Century."



SLL photos

Feb. 12, New York City – Protesters marched through Times Square denouncing the U.S.-Israeli genocide against Palestine.



Feb. 15, New York City – a demonstration for Palestine was held in Manhattan's Dag Hammarskjold Park next to the UN mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Jordanian king is a lapdog for U.S. imperialism. SLL photo

New York State prison guards 'strike' for brutality and solitary confinement

Prison guards and cops are not workers

By Stephen Millies

Thousands of prison guards have staged a so-called strike since Feb. 17 in over 30 New York State prisons. All these hellholes are concentration camps for the poor.

The trigger for these goons was the imminent charging of prison guards who beat Robert Brooks to death. The Black inmate at the Marcy Correctional Facility near Utica, New York, was viciously assaulted by a gang of guards on Dec. 9, 2024, while he was handcuffed. Brooks died the next day.

The murder of Brooks, the father of a son, was recorded on video and has been seen by millions. Yet it took over two months before six of the thugs who killed him were charged on Feb. 20.

Another "grievance" of these prison guards was the Human Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement (HALT) Act. Passed in 2021, it puts some limits on solitary confinement. Nils Melzer, a United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture, described prolonged solitary confinement as psychological torture.

Kalief Browder hanged himself in 2015, two years after being released from New York City's Rikers Island jail. The Black youth — arrested when he was 16 years old — was kept in solitary for two years. Kalief Browder was never even brought to trial, and his family couldn't afford to bail him out.

LaYleen Polanco Xtravaganza died alone in solitary confinement at Rikers in 2019 while experiencing a seizure. The transgender Afro-Latina woman was thrown into the hole despite prison officials knowing that she had epilepsy.

While the HALT act is limited, it could have saved Xtravaganza's life. The law prohibits people with disabilities, anyone under 21 or over 5, or those who are pregnant from being kept in solitary.

It says volumes about the uniformed thugs "on strike" that they want to get rid of a law that stops the most vulnerable from being kept in a tiny cage 22 or more hours a day.



Kalief Browder hanged himself in 2015, two years after being released from New York City's Rikers Island jail. The Black youth — arrested when he was 16 years old — was kept in solitary for two years.

Thugs and torturers are not workers

The walkout by prison guards has meant even more misery for 32,000 incarcerated poor people. They are barely being fed while not being allowed to visit with families and other loved ones.

State Corrections Commissioner Daniel Martuscello suspended the HALT Act on Feb. 20, giving officials the right to throw any inmate into solitary confinement. This violation of human rights is an incentive to brutalize and a gift to the guards who have demanded abolishing the act.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul has called up 4,500 members of the National Guard to patrol the prisons. Among those facilities is Attica prison, where state police under orders of billionaire Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, killed 30 inmates in 1971.

Compare Hochul's kid glove treatment of the guards with how New York City transit workers were treated when they went on strike in 2005. Transit Workers Local 100 President Roger Toussaint was sent to jail.

Super-rich Mayor Michael Bloomberg — whose fortune is currently estimated at \$104.7 billion — called the strikers "thugs."

Later, during the pandemic, at least 177 TWU members — who were originally ordered not to wear masks — died of COVID while keeping the Big Apple moving.

Prison guards are not workers. Neither are any cops, FBI agents, or members of the ICE deportation gestapo. All

of them are mercenaries for the wealthy and powerful and are enemies of the working class.

The so-called representatives of these goons need to be thrown out of local labor councils. Cops who help break strikes have no place in the union movement.

It was disgraceful that the Attica prison guards were members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and more shameful that AFSCME President Jerry Wurf defended them.

Unions should reach out to prisoners, the poorest members of the working class. The labor movement needs to demand "Jobs, Not Jails!"

Gov. Hochul wants prisoners to be exploited by private corporations. They should be paid union wages instead.

Solidarity Forever includes solidarity with the incarcerated. It's Musk and Trump who need to be locked up. #

Community drives out Nazis in Ohio

Continued from page 6

met with the successor to the German Nazi Party in Munich, the Alternative for Germany (Alternative für Deutschland, AfD). Elon Musk appeared virtually at an AfD rally before the Feb. 23 German elections.

Billionaires and MAGA

Unelected Musk is the world's richest oligarch and is currently looting the U.S. people's money in preparation for more tax cuts for billionaires. This is the money of the working people, wealth created through our labor. The convergence of the MAGA movement and Silicon Valley — combined with this naked plunder — shows exactly what the Trump phenomenon is about. It's a big anti-worker swindle. The neo-Nazis on the ground are an essential part of it because the terror they instill is supposed to paralyze the people while the rich hang us out to dry.

But the people in Lincoln Heights aren't bowing down to King Donald and his Co-regent, Elon Musk, and neither should the rest of us! #

'Trump's not welcome here!': Protesters brave police blockades at Super Bowl

By Gregory E. Williams

Donald Trump found himself rebuffed on multiple fronts at the Super Bowl in New Orleans, as did millionaire Gov. "Janky Jeff" Landry. The message of resistance sounded both inside and outside the Superdome.

Despite heavy rain, more than a hundred protesters took to the streets, rallying first at Armstrong Park and then marching as close to the Dome as possible. This was difficult because police blocked routes to the Dome during the march. But a concentration of repressive forces had already been building in the city.

After the New Year's Eve terrorist attack and leading up to the Super Bowl (which makes the big tourism bosses a lot of money), the French Quarter has been turned into a military occupation zone. Racist governor Landry flooded the majority-Black city with state police and the National Guard. Checkpoints with armed guards have gone up in parts of the tourism-focused French Quarter.

Even with these hindrances, the crowd defied both Trump and Landry. Coming out at all was a big statement. We can't give into fear. It's time to fight.

The people leading the resistance

The march was led by the very people Trump and Landry are cynically targeting, with many of these identities intersecting: queer and trans people; immigrants; women; youth; Black people; working-class people — the people who make up the vast majority.

Some organizers of the action were New Orleans for Community Oversight of the Police, Southeast Dignity Not Detention, New Orleans Stop Helping Israel's Ports, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, and Queer and Trans Community Action Project (QTCAP).

Chants included "Our bodies, our choice"; "Say it loud, say it clear, Donald Trump's not welcome here"; "We're here, we're queer, we're fabulous, don't mess with us"; and many more.

'Trump and Landry are afraid of us'

A speaker with QTCAP said, "We know Trump and Landry are afraid of us. They're cowards. When Landry finally

agreed to do one debate while running for governor, we showed up outside the TV station in Lafayette and made a lot of noise. As soon as the broadcast was over, he got in his car and his driver sped him out of there!"

This writer was there. It was a bit like how Trump sped out of the Dome last night.

Halftime show becomes a stage for resistance

Inside the Dome, Kendrick Lamar and other performers put on a showcase of Black talent and resistance during the halftime show.

One of the performers heroically unfurled the flags of Palestine and Sudan before being seized and detained by security. The racist NFL bosses declared him banned for life, while the New Orleans Police Department said that they were "working to determine applicable charges" before finally announcing that he would not be charged.

What an admission of malice and abuse of power! They were literally scratching their heads for a pretext. But apparently, displaying the flags of these two countries is not illegal yet.

Community voices speak out

A New Orleans-area Palestinian community member told Struggle - La Lucha:

"I applaud the man's courage for taking a risk and showing unwavering sol-

idarity for the Palestinian and Sudanese people during one of the country's biggest events. Protests like these show that Palestine will remain a thorn in the imperial world's side until it is free."

Speaking to SLL, NOLA resident and Palestine-solidarity activist Kevin Erickson said:

"That man's action was like a shot in the arm. Thank you, thank you, thank you whoever you are!"

A 19-year-old south Louisiana woman summed up the night like this to SLL:

"This didn't go how Trump planned at all. And I'm assuming that's why some news stations added cheers over the boos when they showed Trump."

So, let's learn from everyone who took a stand during the big game. Wherever Trump goes, let's make sure he knows he's not welcome. #



A performer unfurled the flags of Palestine and Sudan during the halftime show.



Marching against Trump during the Superbowl in New Orleans. SLL photo

Rubens Paiva: Presente!

How ‘I’m Still Here’ challenges Brazil’s resurgent far-right

By Catarina Damasceno

The commercial and critical success of the 2024 film “I’m Still Here” represents a triumph for the Brazilian people. Directed by Walter Salles, the movie is based on the 2015 book of the same name written by Rubens Paiva’s son, Marcelo Rubens Paiva.

The film narrates the story of Rubens Paiva’s “disappearance” from the perspective of his wife, Eunice Paiva. If you spend time in the film corner of social media, you might have seen the enthusiasm of Brazilians with the international success of the movie, being the first Brazilian film to be nominated for Best Picture at the Academy Awards.

Set in the scenic Leblon neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro in 1971, the movie tells a story well-known to many Brazilians. Rubens Paiva is one of the few martyrs from the U.S.-backed right-wing military dictatorship whose name has endured despite right-wing efforts to erase it from public memory. In schools, Paiva’s story was taught as an example of the senseless cruelty inflicted by the military dictatorship on the Brazilian people, alongside others such as Vladimir Herzog and Stuart Angel.

Rubens Paiva, a former congressman of the Brazilian Labor Party (PTB) and a civil engineer, was taken from his family home by armed men. His wife Eunice and 15-year-old daughter Vera were also taken. While Vera returned home after 24 hours, and Eunice was only released after 12 days of detention, Rubens Paiva never came home, and his remains were never found.

In 2014, a bust of Rubens Paiva was unveiled in the House of Representatives in Brasília. This was a poignant tribute to a man who had been “disappeared” by the right-wing dictatorship. During a small ceremony attended by Paiva’s surviving family members, Congressman Jair Bolsonaro left his office and approached the gathering. He shouted, “Rubens Paiva got what he deserved, disgraced communist, bum!” Paiva’s nephew, Chico Paiva Avelino, later recounted in a Facebook post that Bolsonaro spat on the bust before walking away.



Rubens Paiva appears with his children on the beach. A civil engineer who served in Congress as a member of the Brazilian Labor Party, Paiva was tortured and murdered by the U.S.-backed military dictatorship in Brazil in 1971.

This incident marked the first time I heard about the man who would later become Brazil’s president. I remember being shocked by his blatant disrespect for the family members of someone I considered a hero. How could someone be so crass? I was certain his behavior would be deemed unacceptable by people across the political spectrum.

By 2018, when Bolsonaro won the presidential election, he had shown what Avelino described as an “obsession” with Rubens Paiva. Bolsonaro vehemently opposed investigating the cases of those who were “disappeared” by the military dictatorship and consistently blamed Rubens Paiva’s death on the political left.

Since Bolsonaro’s election, nostalgic sentiment for the repressive military dictatorship that ruled Brazil from 1964 to 1985 has only intensified. The shock I initially felt at the crass attitude of a minor political figure in 2014 has now permeated the country. Brazilians are grappling with the reality of a significant political faction that claims the country was better during the dictatorship and advocates for the reinstatement of military rule.

At the time, the military justified his disappearance with the same excuse Bolsonaro would later claim to be true: that Paiva had been rescued from detention by left-wing comrades. Only decades later, in 1996, did the truth surface through the National Truth Commission, which investigated the crimes of the military dictatorship; it was revealed that the former congressman had died due to injuries related to torture on the second day of his imprisonment. His wife fought courageously and tirelessly for the truth.

The story told in “I’m Still Here” is not exactly the entire account of Rubens and Eunice Paiva’s lives

or all of the oppression exerted by the military during the dictatorship. But it presents the experience of Eunice Paiva through her husband’s disappearance and her strength to deal with its aftermath. It is brilliantly portrayed by Fernanda Torres — nominated for Best Actress at the Academy Awards and Brazil’s favorite nepobaby (her mother, Fernanda Montenegro, was also nominated for the same award 25 years ago for the movie “Central Station,” also directed by Walter Salles).

Brazilians are celebrating the success of “I’m Still Here” with good reason. The film portrays a true story from a period of oppression that should not evoke nostalgia. It serves as a powerful reminder of how dangerously close Brazil came to experiencing another right-wing military coup when Bolsonaro took power in 2018. It reminds us that, as the film’s theme song suggests, we must remain vigilant, for danger always lurks around the corner.

“I’m Still Here” is currently playing in theaters everywhere in the United States.

For further reading on the role the United States played in the Brazilian military dictatorship, see Vincent Bevins’s *I’m Still Here*. #

STRUGGLE ★ **LA LUCHA**
for Socialism | *por el Socialismo*

Vol. 8, No. 4 Feb. 24, 2025

Vol. 8, Núm. 4 24 de febrero 2025